Democratic system in Nepal

†3540. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India has expressed its concern to the Government of Nepal over abolition of democratic system in Nepal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of India have strictly criticized brutal suppression of nationwide agitation for restoration of democracy in Nepal by seven democratic parties of Nepal, recently;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of India is continuing its efforts for restoration of democracy in Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of such efforts made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has consistently been of the view that the challenges facing Nepal can only be addressed through a genuine process of dialogue and reconciliation between the constitutional forces of Nepal. India has all along stood by the people of Nepal in their unrelenting struggle for the restoration of their democratic rights.

Intervention in Sri Lankan peace process

3541. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan President during his recent visit to New Delhi, discussed his apprehensions about collapse of the peace process with LTTE and the urgency of shorting up the ceasefire between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan armed forces;

(b) whether Indian intervention in the process was sought;

(c) if so, the details of the talks and outcome thereof; and

(d) the Indian response to the proposal?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The President of Sri Lanka, during his recent State visit to India, briefed the Indian leadership on his Government's approach to the peace process. He also apprised the Government of India of recent attacks on Sri Lankan security forces and other ceasefire violations. Both sides deplored violations of the ceasefire, which could undermine the prospects for peace in Sri Lanka. The Indian side welcomed the Sri Lankan Government's offer for early resumption of peace talks. Both sides emphasized the need for the strict observance of the ceasefire and immediate resumption of talks aimed at strengthening the cease-fire. India reiterated its support for a process of seeking a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all sections of Shri Lankan society within the framework of an undivided Sir Lanka and consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

Code of conductor for electronic media

3542. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines or code of conduct to the electronic media in the matter of programmes telecast by them;

(b) whether these guidelines cover subjects like obscenity, superstitions, misrepresentations through advertisements, crime reporting or any of them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) to(c) Yes, Sir. The Government constituted a Committee to review the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Committee has been given a mandate to prepare a draft Broadcast Code. This covers subjects like obscenity, superstition, string operations, telecast of films, violence, sex, religion, news and current affairs policy etc.